

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 679

By Haynes

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Corporal Ryan Casey McGhee of Fredericksburg, Virginia.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the untimely death of Corporal Ryan Casey McGhee, a courageous member of the United States Army who gave his life in the defense of our nation; and

WHEREAS, following in the patriotic tradition for which our nation's finest sons and daughters are renowned, Corporal Ryan McGhee was a brave and honorable member of the United States Army, 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, based in Fort Benning, Georgia, serving as the Weapons Squad Team Leader with Company D; and

WHEREAS, Ryan McGhee, who served four tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan, lost his life while conducting combat operations in central Iraq, on May 13, 2009; he was twenty-one years of age; and

WHEREAS, Corporal McGhee was a native of Fredericksburg, Virginia, and his mother, Sherri L. McGhee and his maternal grandparents, Dr. William C. Battle and Joann Battle, live in Knoxville, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, before graduating from Massaponax High School in Fredericksburg in 2006, Ryan McGhee spent summers with his grandparents in Knoxville, attending vacation Bible school at First Baptist Concord; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Richard D. Clarke, 75th Ranger Regiment Commander, said of Corporal McGhee, "Ryan McGhee's actions are in the finest traditions of this great regiment. He continuously answered his nation's call, fighting the most tenacious, fanatical, and resolute enemies of our country during multiple deployments to places where most would or could not go. His memory will not be forgotten by our Rangers."; and

WHEREAS, Corporal McGhee's awards and dedications were numerous, including the Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Combat Star, Iraq Campaign Medal with Combat Star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon, Combat Infantry Badge, Parachutist Tab, and Ranger Tab, and he will be posthumously awarded the Bronze Star; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his mother and maternal grandparents, Ryan McGhee is survived by his father and step-mother Steven and Kristie McGhee; his brother, Sergeant Zachary Steven McGhee, U.S. Army National Guard; and his paternal grandparents, Mike and Roberta McGhee; and

WHEREAS, Ryan McGhee's dedication to excellence in the military and his love of family, his fellow soldiers, and his country are exemplified in his sacrifice of life itself in defense of all that he held dear and stand as enduring examples of all the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, this valiant American leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly should pause to remember the singular patriotism, courage, and commitment to duty of this exceptional soldier and human being, the late Corporal Ryan Casey McGhee, United States Army, whose loss is mourned by a grateful nation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Corporal Ryan Casey McGhee, a man of impeccable character and limitless courage who stalwartly committed himself to the defense of his nation as a member of the United States Army, and reflect fondly upon his bravery and dedication to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family and friends of Corporal McGhee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.